



[September](#)
[October](#)
[November](#)
[December](#)
[January](#)
[February](#)
[March](#)
[April](#)
[May](#)
[2007-08](#)

Nick Cullather

"Parable of Seeds: The United States and the Transformation of Rural Asia"

Friday, March 9, 2007

Noon

Mershon Center for International Security Studies
1501 Neil Ave., Columbus, OH 43201



Nick Cullather
Associate Professor of
History
Indiana University

See a [streaming video](#) of this event. This streaming video requires RealPlayer. If you do not have RealPlayer, you can [download it free](#).

Nick Cullather is a historian of U.S. foreign relations at Indiana University in Bloomington specializing in American ventures in nation-building. His research explores the ways in which the United States uses foreign aid, covert operations, modernization theory, diet, statistics, and technology to reconstruct the environment and social order in countries around the world.

Cullather's first book, *Illusions of Influence: The Political Economy of United States-Philippines Relations, 1942-1960* (1994), explored the process through which a former American colony negotiated its conditional independence.

In the 1950s, the Central Intelligence Agency developed a capacity to replace unsuitable governments, elected or otherwise, as he shows in *Secret History: The CIA's Classified Account of Its Operations in Guatemala, 1952-1954* (1999), but the ambitions of nation-builders extended past governments to renovating the most ordinary routines of daily life.

His current project, *Parable of Seeds: The United States and the Green Revolution in Asia*, looks at how American officials and private philanthropies, such as the Ford and Rockefeller foundations, aimed to change the politics of the Cold War by modifying the farming practices, eating habits, and birth rates of millions of peasants in South and Southeast Asia.

Cullather has a bachelor's in history from Indiana University, and a Ph.D. from University of Virginia.

© 2006-07 Mershon Center for International Security Studies

1501 Neil Ave.

Columbus, OH 43201

Phone: 614.292.1681

Fax: 614.292.2407

Email: mershoncenter@osu.edu